

1933
N47
Cap 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
St. Louis 2, Missouri

December 12, 1944

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

AREA COVERAGE TO BE FUNDAMENTAL IN REA POSTWAR PROGRAM

Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard recently addressed a Farm and Industry Conference at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. He said in part:

"The full extension of electricity alone would revolutionize living conditions in millions of rural homes... Estimates show that, in round numbers, there are still about six million farm and rural non-farm homes without electricity. The Rural Electrification Administration has formulated plans for a three-year postwar construction program which would carry high-line service to many of these homes.

"There is one point I'd like to stress in connection with these postwar REA plans. They must provide for complete area coverage. I think we can all agree that it isn't fair to the people of the less lucrative areas to cut them off from this vital link with modern civilization through cream skimming.

"In thinking of the opportunities for serving new areas, we should not overlook the opportunities for greater utilization of electricity on the farms now having electric service. And by no means have all the new uses for electricity been found yet. Despite all the engines and machines and tools and gadgets that are run by electricity now, my guess is that we haven't seen anything yet compared with what we'll see after the war is over. Somebody has called this war the inventor's paradise. Preparation for the invasion of the continent of Europe alone resulted in an astounding array of new weapons. Well, when that inventive genius gets squared away on peacetime appliances and machines, we'll really see something.

"The surface has hardly been scratched in the refrigeration field, particularly as it applies to agriculture. Greatly extended use of quick freezing, bigger and better central refrigerated lockers, more and better individual lockers are handwriting on the wall of agricultural progress. And it's not unreasonable to assume that new inventions and mass-production prices will make air-cooling as well as air-heating possible for rural homes."

THE NEW R-40 HEAT BULB

In a recent report on the new R-40 electric heat bulb, the Idaho Extension Service lists 18 farm uses for this lamp. The R-40 comes in a reflector flood type to cover large areas, and in a spot type to concentrate heat on a small space. Long service life is obtained because the filament operating temperature is relatively low compared to the ordinary light bulb. The 150, 250 and 300 watt R-40 bulbs can be used in any standard socket and with regular wiring.

According to the Idaho Extension Service, the R-40 is ideal when used in lamb brooders to quickly dry new-born lambs, especially during cold weather. It also can be used in pig, calf and chick brooders. When mounted out of the way and protected from livestock, the bulb will prevent freezing of insulated animal drinking cups and insulated hog watering troughs. The bulb will relieve aches and pains in the human body; prevent freezing in the pump house; thaw frozen water pipes; heat greenhouses and hot beds; ripen fruit needing both heat and light, and exterminate larvae and insects.

The R-40 lamp may be mounted above the feed trough in the chicken house to keep wet mash from cooling or freezing. One or more lamps mounted above the can rack or utensil tray will quickly dry separator parts, milk cans and pails. A battery of heat lamps can be used to speed up a paint job that does not quit dry overnight. When mounted on an adjustable roll-around base, the spot type bulb can be placed under the tractor, truck, or car engine to keep the oil warm and make it easy to start. In the farm shop, heat lamps may be used to warm tools and machinery parts. A spot type bulb is a good flea chaser -- and when used with care causes no discomfort to the dog.

POULTRY WATER WARMERS

Because eggs are 65 percent water, a plentiful supply of good drinking water in the chicken house at all times is important to high egg production. In cold weather, hens may fail to drink enough water if it is too cold or covered with a sheet of ice part of the time.

The simplest way to make certain that your hens will have water at the proper temperature this winter is to install an electric poultry water warmer. The water should be kept warmed to approximately 50 degrees. Tests have shown that this is a temperature at which hens will drink adequate amounts of water.

ELECTRIC MOTORS TO BE AVAILABLE IN 1945

Electric motors should be available in 1945 in quantities equal to the 1944 supply, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Although single phase motors, such as are used with hay driers, are likely to fall short of the demands, the experts believe their lack should not be a significant hindrance to meeting 1945 food production goals.

A sufficient supply of dairy and poultry equipment is also in prospect for 1945. Quotas for milking machines have been large, with the number on farms showing a 50 percent increase for the three-year period ending January 1, 1945.

ELECTRIC CHICK BROODERS ARE BEST

You have accurate control over temperature when you use electric chick brooders. They are economical. There is no fussing with fuel or ashes, and the fire hazard is reduced to a minimum.

You can build a good brooder at home from the plans available at the cooperative office. If you plan to build a brooder, we suggest that you do it this winter. Your brooder then will be ready when you need it next spring.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF NEWSLETTER ITEMS

We are happy to learn that the N. E. Smith family in Williamson County is benefiting from electricity. When one of their sons went into the army they were left with one son and the colored man to do all the work. They are milking about 25 cows besides all the other farm work. We learned on a trip to Mr. Smith's farm that his son's wife pitched in and milked also before they had electricity. This summer the electric line was built to their farm and with an electric milker the son and colored man do the job in about half the time, and one man could handle it. Now Mrs. Smith does not have to do any work at the barn and she can spend all of her time at the house.

Before the Smiths received service they used 300 pounds of ice every other day that cost them 40 cents a hundred. They had to depend on the milk man to deliver the ice. Now they have an electric milk cooler, and instead of an \$18 ice bill they have only an \$8.40 electric bill. (From newsletter of The Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.)

Each year in October, the electrical consumption of Clarence Carlson, of Ogden, jumps radically. But there is a reason. He dries seed corn electrically, thus insuring an evenly dried corn, and at the same time, saving labor. This October, Mr. Carlson used 1287 kwh, at a cost of \$21.49 and 43 cents tax. (From newsletter of Greene County Rural Electric Cooperative, Jefferson, Iowa)

Peter Sebens, of Milnor, has installed a new oil electric gas pump on his farm. Mr. Sebens states that he believes the amount of fuel he now saves which was formerly wasted will soon pay for the pump. (From newsletter of RSR Electric Cooperative, Milnor, North Dakota)

Each year more of the Co-op members use electric pumps to irrigate their fields. Any of them will tell you that the increase in production is very noticeable. (From newsletter of Coop Bay Electric Cooperative, Coquille, Oregon)